

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, restriction was required between invention I, claims 3-4, drawn to a bush cutting machine having a brake cover and invention II, claims 7-20, drawn to a bush cutting machine having a set of wires for transmitting lever motion. The Examiner stated that the two inventions are distinct from one another and have acquired a separate status in the art, thereby making restriction for examination purposes proper.

In addition, the Examiner stated that the application contains claims directed to the patentably distinct species shown in Figs. 1-13 (Species A), Figs. 14-19 (Species B), Figs. 20-21 (Species C), Figs. 22-24 (Species D) and Fig. 32 (Species E), and applicants were required to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner stated that currently, many of the claims are generic.

In addition, the Examiner advised that claim 2 is a linking claim which links inventions I and II and that claim 2 will be examined with the elected invention. Should claim 2 or another linking claim be found allowable, the restriction requirement will be withdrawn.

In response to the restriction and election requirements, applicants provisionally elect the invention of Group II drawn to a bush cutting machine having a set of wires for transmitting lever motion and list claims 7-20 as being readable on the elected invention. In response to the election of species requirement, applicants provisionally elect Species B shown in Figs. 14-19 and identify claims 7 and 8 as being specifically readable on the election species. Applicants therefore request examination of claims 7-8, linking claim 2 and the generic claims. It is applicants' understanding that upon allowance of a generic claim or a linking claim, the restriction requirement will be withdrawn and upon allowance of a generic or sub-generic claim, the election of species requirement will be withdrawn to permit species claims readable on the allowable generic or sub-generic claim.

Early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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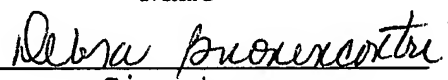
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October 25, 2004

Date